



Paris, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008

## Pierre-Olivier Beckers, President & CEO, Delhaize Group, elected new CIES Chairman

### New Board members reinforce strategic position

The member companies of **CIES – The Food Business Forum** have elected **Pierre-Olivier BECKERS, President & Chief Executive Officer, Delhaize Group**, as its new chairman. Mr Beckers will hold the position for the next two years. The Belgian retail group was one of the founders of CIES, 55 years ago.

The CIES Board of Directors has been further strengthened with the arrival of two new board members: **Jeff Noddle, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Supervalu**, the third-largest grocery retail company in the USA and **Michael Luscombe, CEO of Woolworths Australia**, the number one retailer in its home market.

**Pierre-Olivier BECKERS** commented *“CIES is a unique international organisation, providing a neutral place for debate between retailers and suppliers. As we enter challenging times, food and consumer goods companies play a vital social and economic role, by providing nutritious food and household essentials at everyday low prices. I am committed to ensure that the qualities and USPs of CIES remain relevant to its members and continue to offer a platform for global dialogue. I am very proud that I have again been given the privilege and challenge to lead this forum for the next two years.”*

#### The Directors of the CIES Board are:

- **Pierre-Olivier BECKERS**, Delhaize Group, Belgium (Chairman)
- **Gareth ACKERMAN**, Pick'n Pay Holdings, South Africa
- **Arturo BASTIANELLO**, Gruppo Pam S.p.A., Italy
- **Kenneth BENGTTSSON**, ICA AB, Sweden
- **Klaus DOHLE**, Dohle Handelsgruppe Service, Germany
- **Mike DUKE**, Wal-Mart International, USA
- **José Luis DURAN**, Carrefour, France
- **Claude HAUSER**, Federation of Migros Cooperatives, Switzerland
- **Hiroshi KAWASHIMA**, Tokyu Store Chain Co., Ltd, Japan
- **Michael KOK**, The Dairy Farm Group, Hong Kong
- **Michael LUSCOMBE**, Woolworths Limited, Australia
- **Bill McEWAN**, Sobeys Inc., Canada
- **Jeff NODDLE**, Supervalu, USA
- **Motoya OKADA**, AEON Co., Ltd, Japan
- **Mark Price**, WAITROSE Ltd, United Kingdom
- **Senator Feargal QUINN**, Superquinn, Ireland
- **Gonzalo RESTREPO**, Almacenes Exito S.A., Colombia
- **Francisco SOARES DOS SANTOS**, JMR, Portugal
- **Kian Chew TAN**, NTUC Fairprice Co-operatives Ltd, Singapore

## Pierre-Olivier Beckers

Pierre-Olivier Beckers (1960) has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Delhaize Group since 1999. Mr. Beckers earned a Master's degree in applied economics at I.A.G., Louvain-La-Neuve and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He began working in the food retail industry in 1982, joined Delhaize Group a year later and worked in the U.S. operations of Delhaize Group as a store manager. After his return to Belgium, he broadened his retail experience as a buyer, director of purchasing, member of the Executive Committee and Executive Vice President in charge of international activities. In December 2004, he was elected to a four-year term as President of the Belgian Olympic Committee. Mr. Beckers is also Board member of Guberna and The Corporate Governance Committee.



**Delhaize Group** is a food retailer headquartered in Belgium which operates in 7 countries. Delhaize Group was founded in Belgium in 1867. The principal activity of Delhaize Group is the operation of food supermarkets in North America, Europe and Southeast Asia.

As 2006, Delhaize Group had a sales network (which includes directly operated, franchised and affiliated stores) of 2,705 stores and employed approximately 142,500 people. Store formats are primarily supermarkets, which represent 85% of Delhaize Group's sales network. Delhaize Group's sales network also includes other store formats such as neighborhood stores, convenience stores and specialty stores. In addition to food retailing, which accounts for approximately 95% of Delhaize Group's sales, Delhaize Group also engages in food wholesaling to stores in its sales network and in non-food retailing of products such as pet products and health and beauty products. In 2006, Delhaize Group recorded sales of EUR 19.2 billion and net income of EUR 351.9 million.



## Michael Luscombe

Michael Luscombe was appointed CEO of Woolworths Limited in October 2006. He began his career with Woolworths in 1978 as a graduate trainee at the Southland store in Victoria. In 1994 he moved into buying and marketing as a category manager before becoming Merchandise Manager – overseeing supermarket buying for Victoria under Woolworths' former state-based buying structure. In 1998 Michael moved to Sydney to join Woolworths' growing corporate support office as National Manager Banking. In this role Michael was responsible for the development and launch of Ezy Banking. The following year saw Michael take up the position of General Manager Supply Chain. Michael took on the job of Director of Supermarkets in August 2004, heading up the company's largest trading division. During his tenure, Michael oversaw the complex integration of 150 New Zealand supermarkets and 22

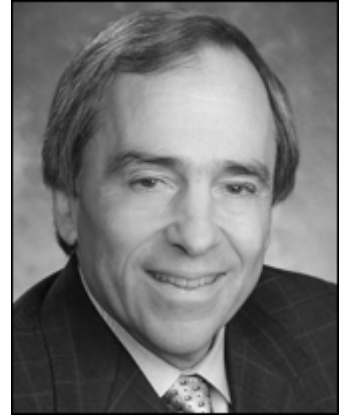
Action stores, acquired as part of the Foodland demerger. Michael is Chairman of the Board of Directors of ALH Group, as well as Chairman of the Australian National Retailers Association, which represents Australia's largest retailers. Michael is a graduate of Monash University. He and his wife Karen have three children. He is 55 years old.

**Woolworths Limited** is made up of some of the most recognisable and trusted brands in retailing, serving millions of customers every day with great choice, low prices and excellent quality. As a group across Australia and New Zealand Woolworths Limited has more than 3000 stores and 180,000 employees.

Our retailing expertise stretches across food & grocery, liquor, petrol, general merchandise and consumer electronics, serving millions of customers each and every day.

## Jeff Noddle

Jeff Noddle is chairman and chief executive officer of Minnesota-based Supervalu Inc., the third-largest grocery retail company and leading food distributor in the United States, a position he has held since 2002. Noddle joined Supervalu in 1976 and held a variety of leadership positions across the company's retail and supply chain operations. In addition to his role as chairman of the Supervalu board of directors, Noddle serves on a number of industry and corporate boards. He is immediate past chairman of the board of directors of The Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and continues to serve as an officer and a member of its executive committee. He is a member of the board of directors of Donaldson Company, Inc. and Ameriprise Financial, Inc. He serves on the boards of The Food Industry Center at the University of Minnesota, the Academy of Food Marketing at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Independent Grocers Alliance, Inc. (IGA). In addition, he is a member of The Business Council, a national organization of CEOs. Noddle is active in Minneapolis civic affairs, currently serving on the Greater Twin Cities United Way board of directors and executive committee, the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management's Board of Overseers, and as a member of the executive committee of the Minnesota Business Partnership.



**Supervalu** is a US-based retail and wholesale company operating discount, supercentre and supermarket formats targeting varying demographics. The company posted full-year sales of USD 44 billion for 2007, generating net profits of USD 593 million. It operates about 2,500 stores. From its premium banner Bristol Farms to "price-impact" supermarkets such as Shop n' Save, the company has historically operated a decentralized strategy with high regional autonomy. With the acquisition of Albertsons, which was completed in 2006, SUPERVALU was transformed from a company with an equal emphasis on retail and supply chain services, to a company today with approximately 80 percent of revenues from its retail operations across the United States.

**CIES - The Food Business Forum** is the only independent global food business network. It brings together the CEOs and senior management of around 400 retailer and manufacturer members of all sizes, across 150 countries. CIES retailer members alone generate over €1 500 billion, employ 6.4 million people and operate close to 200,000 stores. The manufacturer members account for €640 billion in sales. CIES has been growing with the food business for 55 years. It provides a real global platform for thought leadership, debate and networking between retailers and their partners. Its strength lies in the privileged access it offers to the key players in the sector and the sharing of best practice at the highest level. It has a mandate from its members to develop common positions on key strategic and practical issues affecting the food business.

With its headquarters in Paris and its regional offices in Washington, D.C., Singapore, Tokyo and Shanghai, CIES serves its members throughout the world.

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